

REMARKS

The Examiner has divided the pending claims into four groups, that is, claims 2-4, 10 and 11 into Group I, claims 5, 8, 12 and 15 into Group II, and claims 6-7, 13 and 14 into Group III, and claims 16-20 into Group IV, and imposed a restriction requirement between the groups. Claims 1 and 9 are stated by the Examiner as linking inventions I, II, and III. The Examiner also indicated that upon allowance of the linking claims, the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claims depending from shall be allowable.

At this point, the Applicants elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 2-4, 10 and 11 (including linking claims 1 and 9), in this application. The Applicants have withdrawn claims 5-8 and 12-20 without prejudice to pursuing the withdrawn claims in a divisional or other continuing application.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn upon reconsideration of the application. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (847) 862.0153. Furthermore, please charge any additional fees (including extension of time fees), if any are due, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,
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